Opening of Taj Mahal during night

245. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to keep the Taj Mahal open even during the night;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the approval of the Supreme Court has since been obtained for this purpose; and

(d) by when the visitors would be allowed to see the Taj Mahal even during night and what arrangements have been made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Funds for eco-friendly tourism projects in Andhra Pradesh

246. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prioritised eco-friendly tourism projects of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the State Government;

(b) if so, the project-wise details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for each of these projects of the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Central Department of Tourism sanctions the Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations under the following schemes:—

(1) Integrated development of travel circuits

(2) Product Infrastructure & Destination development

(3) Assistance for Large Revenue generating projects

During the year 2002-03 the following projects were sanctioned for development of tourism in the State of Andhra Pradesh:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI. No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Vishakha Utsav and Indur Festival	7.50
2.	Paryatana Bha.an at Hyderabad	500.00

All State Govts./UT Administrations including Government of Andhra Pradesh have been requested to submit the project proposals under the above mentioned schemes for the financial year 2003-04.

(c) On receipt of project proposals from the State Government, Central financial assistance is provided on the basis of the merit of the project, *interse* priority and availability of funds.

Protection of historical monuments in Orissa

247. SHRI: RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has been neglected by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture as the grant and assistan be given to Orissa from 2000 till today is the lowest in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the funds which were given to the Konark, Puri, Lalitgiri, Udaigiri, Ratangiri Nagudi has not been utilised till today, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Brahamnath Mandir, Jagannath Temple, Trilochaneswara, Attharanala and other places of Jaipur townside has been taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(d) if so, the project details to protect these historical monuments?